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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Discussion on the theme "Collective Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Lands, Territories and Resources "

International expert group meeting on the theme "Sustainable Development in the Territories of Indigenous Peoples"

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The international expert group meeting on the theme "Sustainable Development in the Territories of Indigenous Peoples" was held in New York from 23 to 25 January 2018. The present note contains the report of the meeting.

* E/C.19/2018/1.

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Report of the international expert group meeting on the theme "Sustainable Development in the Territories of Indigenous Peoples"

I. Introduction

1. Since the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, indigenous peoples have emphasized the central importance of promoting and protecting their rights to their ancestral lands and territories. Indigenous peoples have a profound spiritual, cultural, social, economic and political relationship with their territories. This is a relationship that defines who they are as peoples. Lands and territories are crucial not only to the well-being of indigenous peoples but to their very existence as distinct peoples.

2. The issues of lands, territories and resources are inextricably linked to sustainable development and self-determination. The rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination, development and their lands, territories and resources are enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These rights are also recognized by many States at the national level as well as by local governments. Despite these advances, indigenous peoples continue to suffer from land loss and are particularly vulnerable to displacement and land grabbing.

3. At its annual session in April 2017, in recognition of the importance of self-determined sustainable development of indigenous peoples in their territories, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended that the Economic and Social Council authorize the organization of a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme: "Sustainable Development in the Territories of Indigenous Peoples". In July 2017, the Council authorized the expert group meeting (see Economic and Social Council decision 2017/247). In accordance with the decision of the Council, the meeting was organized from 23 to 25 January 2018 by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. The programme of work for the meeting is contained in annex I to the present report.

4. The international expert group meeting was attended by members and representatives of the three United Nations indigenous specific mechanisms: the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Chair; Aisa Mukabenova, Jens Dahl, Elifuraha Laltaika and Terri Henry); the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (Victoria Tauli Corpuz); and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Albert K. Barume, Chair). The following experts also participated in the meeting: Joan Carling, Eirik Larsen, Carla Fredricks, Shapiom Noningo Sesén, Mai Thin Yu Mon, Carolina Gil Sánchez, Jérémie Gilbert, Betty Lyons, Kelly Askew, Alejandro Parellada, Ricardo Niño Izquierdo, Janie Simms Hipp, Paul Joffe, Diego Tituaña, Kenneth Deer and Mariaelena Huambachano.

5. *The international expert group meeting* was also attended by observers from Member States and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations.

6. The participants had before them a programme of work and documents prepared by experts. The documents for the expert group meeting are available at www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/.

7. Opening the meeting, Kenneth Deer, Mohawk, of the Haudenosaunee offered words of thanksgiving, as is customary at United Nations meetings on indigenous issues. The Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department

of Economic and Social Affairs, Daniela Bas, welcomed all participants to the meeting and highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to address the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the cross-cutting dimensions of economic, social and environmental development. Ms. Bas encouraged the meeting to consider how the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues can strengthen its partnership with other United Nations bodies to provide analysis and policy advice for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Chair of the Permanent Forum, Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, emphasized the importance of their lands to indigenous peoples, not just as a source of income but as the source of life. Ms. Aboubakrine reiterated that indigenous peoples' understanding and vision of land is that it is a gift, not a possession, and forms part of indigenous peoples' identities. Recalling that the Permanent Forum had identified lands, territories and resources as an annual theme of its sessions in 2007, she highlighted the importance of land rights as central to indigenous peoples and their vision for sustainable development.

II. Overview of the discussions

A. Indigenous peoples' visions for sustainable development

8. The meeting benefited from a wealth of examples of the situation pertaining to the rights of indigenous peoples around the world, beginning with introductory presentations from Eirik Larsen and Joan Carling.

9. Participants at the meeting noted that history is replete with one-size-fits-all approaches to sustainable development that are based on a Western (often neoliberal) notion of development that prioritizes economic growth over all other considerations, such as the environment or well-being. Indigenous peoples all over the world view well-being and development as indivisible and believe that there is a spiritual element to development and their relationship with their environment.

10. Ms. Carling emphasized that it is important to acknowledge conflicting views of development. Indigenous peoples have a more holistic view as a collective over the dominant individual-centred development, which promotes competition and accumulation. Indigenous communities value interdependence and the sharing of resources and conserving this for the needs of future generations. The difference can be illustrated by looking at trees, which are valued as merely a commercial timber product to be exploited, while indigenous peoples regard trees and forests as more than just sources of timber, but as interlinked to their distinct identities, spirituality and ways of life, which are beyond economic terms. Ms. Carling stressed the need to recognize, respect and protect the rights of indigenous peoples over their lands, territories and resources in order to achieve sustainable development for all.

11. Traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples are under threat across the world. For example, as noted by Mr. Larsen, reindeer husbandry, fishing and land use is threatened by climate change in the Arctic, where climate change is faster and more severe than in other regions of the world. In addition to climate change, indigenous peoples' territories face intense pressure from natural resource extraction, large-scale agriculture, infrastructure projects, the designation of conservation areas and tourism.

12. In the presentations and discussions, participants highlighted a number of false narratives that have come to dominate the debate on the rights of indigenous peoples. These narratives portray indigenous peoples and their visions for development as obstacles to development in general and, specifically, as obstacles to national development that is in the interests of the general population. These narratives also describe indigenous peoples as resistant to progress and unable or unwilling to

contribute to development. Often, these false dichotomies are related to racist depictions of indigenous peoples as "savages" or "backward peoples" who have little understanding of the value of lands, territories and resources, with no legitimate claims to these lands. These misconceptions have provided ideological justification for defining these territories as terra nullius, or no man's land, and therefore subject to confiscation and occupation by the State or other entities.

13. Modern articulations of such theories may have advanced but the results for indigenous peoples continue to result in land dispossessions, as in the past. Such false narratives include claims that nomads and pastoralists do not contribute to the national economy or that traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples are environmentally destructive or at odds with conservation efforts. These false narratives are facilitated by the fact that many indigenous peoples are mobile and have few physical structures to demonstrate their land ownership, such as buildings, walls, fences or land titles. This fact can also place an additional legal burden on indigenous peoples that are required to prove prior land occupancy.

14. Another narrative portrays pastoralists as invaders or as actors in conflict that are disruptive of national harmony and peace. Although some pastoralists have indeed been involved in conflict, it is important to acknowledge that they have rights to their traditional territories and that they are not invaders. Owing to outside circumstances (such as large-scale agriculture or infrastructure projects) there is increasing demand for these lands.

15. Participants at the meeting emphasized the urgent need to counter such narratives with fact-based evidence about the contributions of indigenous peoples to their national societies, not only as custodians of biological and cultural diversity but also as direct contributors to the gross domestic product (GDP) of their countries. It was noted, for example that pastoralists are estimated to contribute between 10 and 44 per cent of the GDP of African countries and that 90 per cent of the meat consumed in East Africa comes from pastoralism. Yet this is invisible to Governments, since current methods for measuring GDP fail to measure the economic activities of pastoralists or many other traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples.

16. Ms. Simms Hipp noted that some of the economic activities of indigenous peoples in the United States have been measured and that an estimated $3 billion of agricultural commodities come from Indian and Alaska Native producers. Most of this food leaves tribal lands to benefit the wider United States population. Meanwhile indigenous peoples are disproportionately likely to live in food deserts, which are areas of low food access, on the basis of the distance to the nearest supermarket.

17. The relationship between food sovereignty, self-determination, sustainable development and holistic health was analysed by Ms. Huambachano, who noted that the changing dietary habits of indigenous peoples have led to high levels of food insecurity as well as obesity. There is a growing indigenous food sovereignty movement that recognizes these challenges and is making efforts to revert to traditional sustainable agricultural practices. These efforts require land, and land tenure concerns continue to negatively impact the ability of indigenous peoples to achieve lasting food security. Food sovereignty is inextricably linked to land tenure security and the rights of indigenous peoples to exercise self-governance and autonomy.

18. Participants noted that land tenure concerns continue to negatively impact the ability of indigenous communities to build lasting food security and sustainable development activities. Continuing dialogue and alliance development is critical in this period of rapid change and heightened pressures throughout the world on issues related to food sovereignty and land.

B. Indigenous peoples' self-determined sustainable development and forms of autonomy

19. Article 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that "Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions." The meeting considered indigenous peoples' forms of autonomy with examples from the Sami in Norway, the Wampis in Peru, the Chin in Myanmar and the Onondaga in North America.

20. In 2015, the Wampis people established an autonomous indigenous government within Peru, identifying their lands and territories in the Peruvian Amazon, proclaiming Wampis and Spanish as official languages and declaring that they will administer their own internal affairs while also respecting the territorial borders of the State of Peru. The Statute of the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampis Nation acknowledges that the men and women of the Wampis Nation are also Peruvian citizens.

21. In his presentation, Mr. Noningo Sesén stated that the Wampis people made the decision to establish an autonomous government to protect and promote their cultural traditions, as well as to protect their environment from a development model that had been imposed on them, with devastating consequences for their forests and biodiversity. Their priority is the protection of their ancestral territories, holistic well-being, food security and harmonious relations both with nature and with other Peruvians and the Peruvian State. The establishment of the Wampis autonomous region was enacted unilaterally by the Wampis people in the exercise of their right to self-determination as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Government of Peru was duly informed about the process. The Wampis people plan involve State administration authorities at different levels as part of a positive model of collaboration.

22. In Norway, the Sami people are represented by the Sami Parliament of Norway, which is elected by the Sami people. Mr. Larsen explained that the Sami Parliament was established by the Sami Act, adopted by the Norwegian Parliament in 1987. The Sami Act states that the Norwegian authorities shall create conditions enabling the Sami people to preserve their language, culture and way of life. The Sami Parliament deals with all matters relevant to the Sami people.

23. The Sami Parliament places emphasis on traditional knowledge in the use and protection of biodiversity. Solutions which pave the way for active local involvement in decision-making processes should become more common. Policymaking needs to be driven by both scientific findings and accumulated traditional knowledge and wisdom. It is an ongoing challenge to achieve inclusion of contrasting knowledge visions in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services and to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge holders in both national and international processes.

24. In his presentation, Mr. Niño Izquierdo described the situation in Colombia, where the State has recognized 28 per cent of its territory as indigenous, of which over 600,000 hectares have been legally titled to indigenous communities. This demonstrates that indigenous land management of biologically diverse areas, together with recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples is an effective conservation strategy. However, more needs to be done to protect indigenous territories, which, in Colombia are mainly rainforest, with complex ecosystems. It is particularly important to address the situation of indigenous peoples who were displaced during the conflict, which accelerated land loss for many communities.

25. In her intervention, Ms. Lyons emphasized indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and that indigenous peoples should refer to themselves as nations, rather than tribes. The Onondaga nation are a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which has signed treaties with both Canada and the United States. As an expression of self-determination, the Onondaga nation, based within New York State, does not accept funding from the United States Federal Government. It also does not participate in United States elections, as it has its own government system. Ceremonies, culture and language have been paramount in upholding Onondaga autonomy.

26. In her presentation on the situation of the Chin people in Myanmar, Ms. Yu Mon noted that there is no formal recognition of indigenous peoples, and the term ethnic nationalities is used. She described the centralized concentration of power within the federal government concerning lands and natural resources. Indigenous peoples that practise shifting cultivation are particularly vulnerable, since their land use is based on indigenous systems whereby land is cultivated for a few years and then left fallow for from three to seven years or even more, to allow it to regenerate. The indigenous peoples often do not have formal documents of title to their lands, and their land is often considered by the State to be unoccupied. Indigenous peoples in Myanmar are hopeful that the ongoing peace process will lead to constitutional amendments that will bring increased autonomy and a decentralization of power.

27. Participants noted the diversity of different forms of autonomy among indigenous peoples, citing examples from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Greenland, Indonesia, Mali, Panama and the Philippines, among others. Participants highlighted the need to compile information about indigenous peoples' autonomy and governance systems that could provide valuable information as good practices. This could also serve to address false narratives and misconceptions about indigenous peoples and their contributions to sustainable development.

28. It is also worth noting that matters of autonomy, land rights and self-determination are not only legal concepts, but also crucial to the survival of indigenous peoples' languages, cultures, health and food sovereignty.

C. Land grabbing and displacement of indigenous peoples from their territories

29. Land grabbing is a term that is increasingly used to describe large-scale acquisition by private and public investors of land previously occupied and managed by indigenous peoples. In his presentation, Mr. Gilbert stated that land grabbing is driven by the increased marketization of land and its potential production. This is the result of many related phenomena, including the globalization of agricultural production, the quest for food security by countries lacking arable lands, the struggle for investment in energy and biofuel security ventures and other climate change mitigation strategies, ad recent demands for resources from newer hubs of global capital. In this global quest for land, indigenous peoples are particularly negatively affected, as this rush for land investment has very often brought about loss of access to their own lands and territories.

30. For most indigenous peoples it is not a new phenomenon but part of a historical pattern of land dispossession for larger economic and market-based interests. An increase in large-scale investments in the exploitation of land and natural resources over the past two decades and especially since the 2008/2009 economic and food crisis, has led to massive investments by private funds and banks in lands that often belong to indigenous peoples.

31. The past two decades, however, have also seen a documented increase in violence, illegal evictions, and human rights violations against indigenous peoples, occurring in tandem with increased appropriation of their traditional lands, water and other natural resources. In their presentation, Ms. Askew and Mr. Laltaika identified five primary causes for the land-grabbing phenomenon in the global South:

(i) Agribusiness interests;

(ii) Conservation initiatives;

(iii) Extractive industries;

(iv) Infrastructure projects;

(v) Increased competition with cultivators over ever-shrinking land resources.

32. They also identified a sixth mode of dispossession, stemming from increasing numbers of internally displaced persons. This affects indigenous communities in two ways: first, when their territories suffer an influx of internally displaced persons fleeing conflict, and secondly, when, following evictions, indigenous peoples meet with rejection, violence and abuse in their search for new places to call home.

33. Over recent decades, the greatest threat to indigenous peoples' territories has been large-scale agricultural developments and extractive industries. Agribusiness and natural resource extraction are driven by significant foreign investments, but also by national priorities that often relate to food security, as well as traditional governance concerns such as economic growth, direct foreign investment and job creation. These priorities align themselves well with the false narratives that portray indigenous peoples as unproductive barriers to development.

34. While agribusiness and resource extraction have received attention in reports on land grabbing, conservation has been relatively unrecognized as a major source of land alienation in the territories of indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples are known for their careful stewardship of land, water and other natural resources, such as forests. Thus, when the global North seeks more forest cover for climate change mitigation and to offset carbon emissions, or pristine landscapes for tourism, or because all land is already serving residential, commercial or other purposes, undue pressure is placed on the South to compensate with their land resources.

35. Responding to international agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, which proposes a target of 10 per cent of every biome to be protected,[1] States have increasingly identified greater areas for protection, often in the territories of indigenous peoples. These are often particularly appealing for conservation precisely because indigenous peoples have managed these territories in a sustainable manner for millennia. Ironically, indigenous peoples are thus penalized for their sustainable livelihoods in the name of conservation and protection of the environment. The expansion of protected areas is taking place not just at the behest of Governments, but also as a result of international conservation organizations applying great pressure on Governments to conserve more areas. Indigenous peoples must be aware of "green grabbing" when sustainable development initiatives are being used against the rights of indigenous peoples.

36. Participants noted that most of these land grabs are taking place under investment treaties signed between States and private investors. These changes in the legal framework are in favour of the investors and to the detriment of indigenous peoples, who are not informed of or protected in such treaties.

[1] In accordance with Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. See www.cbd.int/sp/targets/rationale/target-11/.

37. Furthermore, such investment treaties do not integrate and respect the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples. Investment treaties typically recognize that States have the right to expropriate land in order to allow investments, often establishing legal standards of protection for investors that undermine internationally recognized indigenous peoples' rights.

38. In the context of the acquisition of large areas of land for investments in agribusiness and green investments, lending institutions play an important role in supporting such massive investments. These lending institutions, such as pension funds, may be unaware of their support for these practices.

39. The implication of these different actors also means that multiple layers of different legal frameworks will apply, as laws regarding investment laws, contractual obligations, bilateral investments treaties and environmental agreements all play a role. With an example of the violation of indigenous peoples' rights in Eritrea that has been taken to court in Canada, the participants discussed the need to ensure that multinationals are responsible for their acts in their home countries also.

40. During the discussions, participants noted the importance of the principle of free, prior and informed consent. However, it is frequently used as a tool to create a false impression that genuine consultations have taken place — often to tick off a box on a checklist. Another concern is the proliferation of guidelines, handbooks and manuals on free, prior and informed consent and a lack of clear authoritative standards on how to implement this right. In this regard, participants welcomed the information that the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will prepare a study on free, prior and informed consent that can serve as a valuable resource.

41. Participants also identified an urgent need to address the false narrative of indigenous peoples as obstacles to development by compiling and disseminating information on indigenous peoples' rich contributions to their national societies, good practices on the protection of land rights and to share this information among indigenous peoples, as well as States and others.

D. Indigenous Peoples, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations System: leaving no one behind

42. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets include six explicit references to indigenous peoples, including target 2.3, committing to double the agricultural output of indigenous small-scale farmers, and target 4.5 to ensure equal access to education for indigenous children. There is also a strong commitment in the 2030 Agenda to empower and engage indigenous peoples in implementing and reviewing progress in achieving the Goals, including at the national level. States are also encouraged to include the contributions of indigenous peoples in the national voluntary reviews of progress. However, participants regretted that there is no clear Sustainable Development Goal indicator for the recognition of indigenous peoples' land rights, a gap that affects poverty eradication, health, education and other important elements.

43. Among the Sustainable Development Goal targets most relevant to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is target 1.4, concerning land rights. However, indigenous peoples are not distinctly mentioned in this target yet, despite the central importance of land rights for all indigenous peoples across the globe.

44. Participants expressed concern that there is an emerging trend to disassociate human rights from the sustainable development discourse in recent years. This strays from the three pillars of the work of the United Nations, which underscore that there

is no peace without development, there is no development without peace and there is no peace or development without human rights. All three are indivisible and mutually reinforcing.

45. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is unequivocally anchored in human rights. It is explicitly grounded in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties and other instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development. It states that the Sustainable Development Goals aim to realize the human rights of all, and emphasizes the responsibilities of all States to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

46. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the basic text that guides the work of the United Nations in relation to indigenous peoples, constituting the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples of the world. The Declaration recognizes indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination and autonomy and makes a number of references to indigenous peoples' rights to their lands, territories and resources.

47. Speaking on the Declaration, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, noted that there is growing jurisprudence from national and regional courts, as well as from treaty bodies, that links the right to self-determination with land, resources and development, although effective enforcement of court decisions is frequently slow and ineffective.

48. Articles 41 and 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples direct the United Nations system, its organs and specialized agencies to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and to promote respect for and full application of its provisions. The Declaration specifically refers to the role of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in this regard.

49. In February 2008, less than a year after the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Development Group issued the United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues to assist the United Nations system to mainstream and integrate indigenous peoples' issues in processes for operational activities and programmes at the country level. The Guidelines set out normative, policy and operational frameworks and provide lines of action for planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes involving indigenous peoples.

50. At the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the General Assembly unanimously reaffirmed its support for the Declaration and the commitments contained therein. The outcome document of the World Conference also contained commitments to make greater efforts to implement the Declaration at the national level, including through the development of national action plans and strategies, as well as legislative, policy and administrative measures. The outcome document also recognized the need to consider enhanced participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations and requested the Secretary-General to develop a system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples.

51. In follow-up to this request, the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples was finalized in 2015 and is currently being implemented by various United Nations entities, coordinated by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues. A representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) informed the meeting of action taken to implement the system-wide action plan. The action plan emphasizes

implementation at the national level, integration with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and capacity-building for indigenous peoples and Member State officials. Specific efforts have been made by the Inter-Agency Support Group to increase coherence between Headquarters work and the United Nations country teams, such as the annual Inter-Agency Support Group meeting, held in Quito in 2017, which contributed to an increased focus on the rights of indigenous peoples by the United Nations country team. Updates on the implementation of the action plan are presented to Member States and indigenous peoples at the annual sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

III. Recommendations

52. Participants recommended specific actions to be undertaken by States and United Nations entities, as well as indigenous peoples themselves, to support sustainable development in the territories of indigenous peoples:

53. Indigenous peoples, States and United Nations entities must do more to promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the country level and, in particular, address the lack of knowledge about the Declaration and its provisions among government officials, United Nations staff and indigenous peoples themselves.

54. States the world over need to be reminded that indigenous peoples — including, but not limited to, pastoralists and hunter-gatherers — have inherent human rights and fundamental freedoms equal to those of all other human beings, as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law. Pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities, especially in Africa, continue to face discrimination and persecution, and forced removals and abrogation of their rights to their land, livestock, territories and natural resources are commonplace.

55. Knowledge should be enhanced and promoted with regard to the critical contributions that indigenous peoples make to national and international well-being, including substantial contributions to national economies in meat and dairy products, honey and traditional medicinal products. Furthermore, indigenous practices of sustainable land and natural resource management hold untold value for the global community. It is important to counter widespread ignorance of the contributions of indigenous peoples to local, national and international well-being, which is a contributing factor to their marginalization.

56. The Permanent Forum should take measures to challenge the widespread narratives in many countries (especially in Africa) that pastoralists are "invaders" of other peoples' lands and territories and lack legitimate and verifiable claims to territories of their own.

57. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues should, in its efforts to carry out the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples, prioritize a capacity-building initiative to recognize, strengthen and support the self-determination of indigenous peoples. Efforts may include, but are not limited to, increased awareness, advocacy, education and research surrounding indigenous self-determination.

58. Strengthening indigenous peoples and their traditional systems of governance will ensure greater engagement with and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Sustainable Development Goals in indigenous territories and with indigenous peoples.

59. The United Nations should support the interconnectivity of indigenous peoples to strengthen their capacity and networking, with particular reference to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local, national, regional and global levels.

60. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should give special consideration to indigenous peoples' experiences with autonomy and governance systems in their expression of self-determination, including through a compilation and dissemination of good practices.

61. Indigenous peoples are key actors for local, regional, national and international security. It is essential to effectively involve indigenous leaders, women and youth in national, regional and international security mechanisms in all their phases. In this regard, the Permanent Forum should consider an in-depth thematic analysis of indigenous peoples, peace and security and the positive contributions that indigenous peoples play in promoting peace and conflict resolution.

62. The Permanent Forum should explore opportunities to work with and support indigenous peoples' mechanisms that engage with international processes, such as the indigenous peoples' major group (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Biodiversity. These indigenous mechanisms are engaged in important work that could be strengthened through enhanced engagement with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its annual sessions and throughout the year.

63. Food sovereignty is a central issue that is relevant to several Sustainable Development Goals. The Permanent Forum should organize a periodic special discussion and/or briefing that would allow key experts and state representations and the United Nations system to continue building alliances and dialogues that will further the interchange of emerging developments among indigenous groups throughout the world on an ongoing and accelerated basis.

64. With regard to existing and future trade and investment agreements, it was recommended that such agreements include a distinct chapter relating to indigenous peoples. Such a chapter can potentially promote increased cooperation and harmonious relations and address a broad range of indigenous concerns. In particular, it was recommended that new and existing investor-State dispute resolution mechanisms include, or be amended to include, just and fair procedures for indigenous peoples' participation and effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights.

65. Member States should make greater efforts to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples at the national and international level in activities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Annex I

Programme of work

Date/time	*Programme*
Tuesday, 23 January 2018	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	**Opening remarks** Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues **Introduction: Sustainable Development in the territories of indigenous peoples** Moderator: Chandra Roy-Henriksen, Chief, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/Division for Social Policy and Development/Department of Economic and Social Affairs Presentations by: Joan Carling Eirik Larsen Discussants: Jens Dahl Carla Fredricks General discussion
3 p.m.–6 p.m.	**Regional cases of autonomy in the territories of indigenous peoples** Moderator: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Presentations by: Shapiom Noningo Sesén Mai Thin Yu Mon Discussants: Carolina Gil Sáachez Betty Lyons General discussion

Date time	*Programme*
Wednesday, 24 January 2018	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	**Challenge from land grabbing and natural resource extraction and large-scale development projects** Moderator: Terri Henry, Vice-Chair Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Presentations by: Elifuraha Laltaika and Kelly Askew Jérémie Gilbert Discussants: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Alejandro Parellada General discussion
3 p.m.–6 p.m.	**Indigenous visions for sustainable development** Moderator: Albert Barume, Chair Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Presentations by: Ricardo Niño Izquierdo Janie Simms Hipp Mariaelena Huambachano Discussants: Paul Joffe Diego Tituaña General discussion
Thursday, 25 January 2018	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	**United Nations System and Article 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** Moderator: Kenneth Deer Presentation by: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Discussant: Diego Tituaña General discussion

Date time	*Programme*
3 p.m.–6 p.m.	**Analysis and policy recommendations** Moderator: Jens Dahl, Vice-Chair, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues General discussion Closing remarks: Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Chair Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Annex II

List of participants

Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, Chair
Aisa Mukabenova
Jens Dahl
Elifuraha Laltaika
Terri Henry

Members of United Nations mechanisms relevant to the rights of indigenous peoples

Victoria Tauli Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples
Albert Barume, Chair, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Invited experts

Joan Carling
Eirik Larsen
Carla Fredricks
Jérémie Gilbert
Betty Lyons
Kelly Askew
Shapiom Noningo Sesén
Mai Thin Yu Mon
Carolina Gil Sáachez
Alejandro Parellada
Ricardo Niño Izquierdo
Janie Simms Hipp
Paul Joffe
Diego Tituaña
Kenneth Deer
Mariaelena Huambachano